

## North Beacon Town Hall Meeting

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May 30, 2009

### Group 4

- How many dwelling units in North Beacon today?
  - In 2000-1,500 times approximately two people
- Bus to work downtown
  - Two stops: front of Red apple which is hart to cross street with all the cars. "Not Pedestrian Friendly"
- I feel sidelined – NPAC to advise City and recommend procedures. Community/Public is welcome to NPAC Meetings
- Would like to see Beacon more pedestrian friendly
- Park in neighborhood/work and walk with kids needs to be more pedestrian friendly
- Not pedestrian active in early evening
- 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drive – Parking feels unsafe no people around
  - Bus to neighborhood
- 14<sup>th</sup> Near Library - Live
  - Commute to Eastlake for work via scooter.
  - Weekend walk to store (Red Apple/Library)
- MLK Drive to here – crossing at 16<sup>th</sup> is difficult and unsafe
  - We need more big nice trees
- 13<sup>th</sup> & Hill – Live - Bus to Capitol Hill to work – Walk or drive to Red Apple/Galaxy Area
- 15<sup>th</sup> & Dawson – Live - 10 minute walk to nearest Bus
  - Drive to Red Apple
  - Likes all the business in walkable places like Wallingford
  - Wants to reach a critical mass of population here to support business in heart of neighborhood
  - "Pickings are sparse today"
- 16<sup>th</sup> & Spokane would prefer bus – has choice of walking or bus C36/35
  - Must drive to work/field office
- 17<sup>th</sup> & College – Live / work downtown, daycare downtown
  - Bus 36 to downtown
  - Wants to use train to get downtown
- 13<sup>th</sup> to Bellevue
  - Bike to Bus (550) @ 90<sup>th</sup> and Rainier
- Walk to work in Park
  - Tool depots scatted all over the area in pickup truck – Parks Dept brings in supplies
  - Very dependent on car dependant volunteers who come in from other parts of Seattle/East side
- Meet at Java Love
  - Occasionally meet at Starbucks at MLK/Rainier to meet with friends
- Shop at Red Apple
- Events at El Centro
- Culture at Georgetown

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- The problem with these blocks is they are not accurate with on the ground reality and the veneer storefronts offset by parking in the front – July Buildings
- Likes the way Vancouver BC details and programs sidewalks – wide and nice storefronts
- We need 15' to 20' sidewalks along Beacon
- And Big Trees
- We should stretch the commercial district further down but be careful to not over do it
- Trees and sidewalks
- Re-zone to include El Centro → More housing
  - Let El Centro Decide
- Zone around station but organize Beacon as main commercial area
- What is the city looking for from Beacon? Density? → Primary not an employment center
- What do we want to see?
- Can the City bring things to Cleveland High School area? To make more livable these amenities need to exist in other pockets beyond the station center
- There is a corner nearby that will do this
- How to connect these other areas?
- Walkable areas need to connect otherwise you create a vacuum
- The commercial areas need to be in more places
- Beacon Focus now – in future we should make more beautiful
- Good business should survive
  - Takes big investment to activate places
  - takes time as well
  - people can plan to group activities into one trip/destination
- 15<sup>th</sup> & Lucile / Cleveland High School, ugly building and two empty properties
- Private developers have a lot of control
  - Allow opportunity for small scale community and park
- More flexibility in zoning for small scale
- Support character preservation and connection relation to the International District
- Problem with 65' – 85' is too much mass at ground level/big footprints are problematic
- Solution is smaller parcels like Beacon Tower (some disagree)
- Storefront Continuity
- Above 65' is expensive to build
- Alleys
  - Do Not vacate alleys!
  - Proxy to preventing full block massing
  - Preserve alleys – this will keep scale pedestrian friendly
- Orient community toward alleys
- Draw El Centro
  - Scale
  - Layering
- Parking/shared/do not allow “exclusive”
- El Centro

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- Don't turn backs on it
- Should open up to station
- Explore potential of connecting with plaza and upzone and consider housing to make affordable
- Parks
  - Chinese mediation in adjacent parks in existing park property like 12<sup>th</sup> Ave overlook
- 15<sup>th</sup> & Beacon: Intersection is problematic
  - Consider reworking north bound traffic

### Summary

- Lots of residents and workers
- Loyalty to businesses and community
- Beacon Avenue should be commercial focus
  - Wider sidewalks 12-20'
  - Trees and amenities
- Break up Scale
  - Maybe low commercial with residential "towers"
  - Alley preservation
- El Centro
  - Opportunities to develop higher density
  - Relationship to link Station
- Small Neighborhood Commercial opportunities